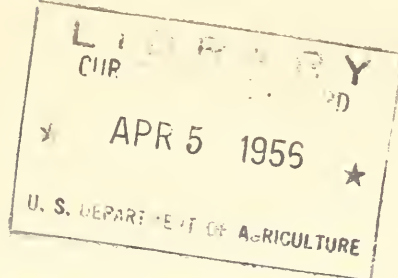


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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. D. A. Washington, D. C. March 24, 1955 SS148

Farmers Plan to Plant Bigger Acreage

If farmers' plans around March 1 materialize, their total acreage of spring-planted crops will be slightly larger than in 1954 and they will make sharp shifts in the planted acreage of several major crops compared with last year. Much uncertainty about fulfillment of plans arises from the possible extent of winter wheat to be lost and replanted to other crops, final acreage allotments for some crops, and the weather at planting time. For the 16 crops covered by the prospective plantings report, a total of nearly 285½ million acres is now indicated, 3.2 million more than were planted in 1954.

Here is a rundown of prospective acreages:

Crop	Planted 1954	Indicated 1955	1955 compared with 1954
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Barley	14,517	15,776	+8.7
Sorghums for all purposes	19,882	21,322	+7.2
Soybeans ¹	18,753	19,981	+6.5
Beans, dry edible	1,714	1,788	+4.3
Peas, dry field	287	295	+2.8
Hay ²	72,770	74,360	+2.2
Oats	47,284	47,664	+ .8
Potatoes	1,423	1,434	+ .8
Corn	81,893	82,033	+ .2
Sweetpotatoes	354	354	+ .1
Peanuts ¹	1,932	1,914	-.9
Flaxseed	5,959	5,743	-3.6
Tobacco ²	1,645	1,561	-5.1
Spring wheat other than Durum	14,229	12,848	-9.7
Sugar beets	963	833	-13.5
Rice	2,462	1,800	-26.9
Durum wheat	1,658	1,112	-32.9

¹ Grown alone for all purposes. ² Acreage harvested.

For wheat, the prospective 1,112,000 acres of durum and 12,848,000 acres of other spring wheat, plus 43,442,000 acres of winter wheat already sown, add to 57,402,000 acres. This compares with 61,971,000 acres of all wheat planted in 1954.

More Feed Grain, Less Food Grain in Prospect

Total acreage of the 4 feed grains may reach nearly 167 million acres, 3.2 million acres more than in 1954. No forecasts of production are made now, but if prospective acreages are realized and if yields should equal the 1949-53 average, by States, an aggregate of 125 million tons of feed grains would be produced. Only the 135 million tons produced in 1948 is higher. The 1954 feed grain total was 121.6 million tons.

The acreage of food grains will be sharply smaller than last season.

Total Acreage May Be Nearly As Large As In 1954

Principal crops (59 crops) planted or grown in 1955 may total about 353½ million acres, allowing for cotton at the allotment acreage and for numerous other crops not yet surveyed. This would be nearly as large as in 1954, and only slightly less than in 1950, when allotments were also in effect on corn, wheat, and cotton.

Spring Crop Prospects

Although the season generally is not as early as in the last few years, there have as yet been no serious delays in starting spring work; a few areas are advanced. Improvement in soil moisture conditions in large areas during the last few weeks permits some optimism about crop prospects. Shortage of irrigation water supplies and drought in a large southwestern area are the chief dark spots in the otherwise good spring prospects.

Soil Moisture

Soil moisture shortages, which were widespread at the end of the 1954 crop season, have been relieved to a large extent, with mostly ample topsoil moisture, but with shortages of reserve subsoil moisture in some areas. The chief problem area is in the western part of the lower and central Great Plains, where rainfall has been well below the low normal for several seasons. Wheat and pastures in that area are in a precarious position and have already suffered severely from wind erosion. If good rains fall soon much wheat could recover and produce a crop. If rains do not come until later, sorghums and broom-corn may be planted to furnish feed and cash crops.

Production Comparisons

Commodity	Jan.-Feb. 1954	Jan.-Feb. 1955
Milk, (bil. lb.)	18.2	18.0
Eggs, (bil.)	11.0	11.3
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	1830	1817
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.)	1881	1,051
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	160	159
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	11,836	11,993

¹ January under Federal inspection.

Nonfarm Indexes of Interest to Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Jan. 1954	Dec. 1954	Jan. 1955
Wholesale prices of food.	1947-49=100	104	101	102
Retail prices of food	1947-49=100	113	110	111
Weekly factory earnings.	1947-49=100	141	144	142

Allotments

Acreages finally to be planted to allotment crops may be affected by developments after March 1. In reporting their 1955 plans, some farmers did not know their individual corn acreage allotments. Legislation still pending may change allotments for some growers of rice or tobacco. Durum wheat growers on March 1 had not been fully informed of the amendment to the program permitting them to overplant their allotments. The prospective acreage of peanuts to be picked and threshed is not likely to exceed allotments. For rice, intended plantings of 1,800,000 acres compares with allotments of 1,849,152 acres. Much of the acreage diverted from allotment crops seems likely to go into pasture and hay crops.

Vegetables

Winter vegetable production is now estimated at 5 percent below last year although equal to average. Yield prospects improved during February for snap beans, celery, and tomatoes, but declined for winter beets, sweet corn, eggplant, and spinach. Prospective acreages of fresh market vegetables for spring harvest are expected to be larger than in 1954 for asparagus, beets, cabbage, and spinach, but smaller for onions, tomatoes, and watermelons.

Citrus Fruit

	Indicated 1954 Mil. boxes	
Oranges and tangerines	139.6	up 7% from last season; 23% above average.
Grapefruit	42.6	up 12% from last season but 15% below average.
Lemons	14.2	12% less than last season; 14% above average.

Potato Stocks

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held by growers and dealers on March 1, 1955, in or near producing areas are estimated at 62.3 million bushels compared with 89.7 million bushels a month earlier and 118.2 million bushels on January 1, 1955.

January-February Egg Production Above Last Year

February egg production (5,518 million eggs) was about the same as in February 1954. Laying rates dropped below a year ago but a 2 percent increase in the number of layers made up for it. January-February production of 11,289 million eggs is 3 percent above last year.

February Milk Production Down

Milk production in February totaled 8,884 million pounds, 1 percent less than last year. Production per cow was record high for February, but there were fewer milk cows. Production was sufficient to pro-

vide 1.93 pounds of milk daily for each person in the United States, about 3 percent less than a year earlier and slightly less than average.

1954 Calf Crop a Record High

The 1954 calf crop totaled 42.2 million head--the highest on record and 3 percent larger than the 1953 calf crop. This was the fifth successive annual increase over the preceding year since the number of cattle began to increase in 1949. The record 1954 calf crop resulted from the big cow herd on farms and ranches during 1954. Although cow slaughter increased during 1954, the cow herd stayed large throughout the year, increasing slightly to a new record high by the end of the year.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Feb. 15, 1954	Jan. 15, 1955	Feb. 15, 1955
Prices received by farmers.....	258	244	245
Crops.....	237	248	245
Food grains.....	236	241	240
Feed grains and hay.....	208	204	203
Tobacco.....	443	425	436
Cotton.....	258	275	268
Fruit.....	210	222	210
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt.	233	263	258
Oil-bearing crops.....	269	274	270
Livestock and products.....	277	240	244
Meat animals.....	315	263	264
Dairy products.....	267	258	253
Poultry and eggs.....	208	163	190
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities.....	¹ 263	264	264
Commodities used in living.....	271	273	271
Commodities used in production...	¹ 254	254	256
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....	282	283	283
Wage rates ²	525	521	521
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers).....	91	86	87

¹Revised.

²Seasonally adjusted.

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	Jan. 15, 1955	Feb. 15, 1955	Feb. 15, 1955
Wheat, bu..... dol.	2.14	2.13	2.51
Corn, bu..... dol.	1.40	1.40	1.82
Peanuts, lb..... ct.	12.6	12.5	13.6
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb..... ct.	32.51	31.69	35.22
Potatoes, bu..... dol.	1.13	1.17	1.46
Hogs, 100 lb..... dol.	17.00	16.40	21.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb..... dol.	16.20	16.50	21.40
Calves, 100 lb..... dol.	17.20	18.00	23.40
Lambs, 100 lb..... dol.	18.50	19.30	23.40
Butterfat, lb..... ct.	57.5	57.5	73.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb..... dol.	4.19	¹ 4.05	4.70
Chickens, live, lb..... ct.	22.2	23.7	29.1
Eggs, doz..... ct.	32.2	39.5	46.4

¹Preliminary.

Early Spring Lamb Crop

The 1955 early spring lamb crop in the principal early lamb States is estimated to be about the same size as last year. The number of breeding ewes is down from a year ago, but this was offset by a higher percentage of the ewes lambing earlier this season. The number of lambs saved per 100 ewes is only slightly smaller than last year. Generally mild, open winter weather in most States has been favorable for early lambing and holding down losses. The feed situation has not been favorable in sections which suffered from dry weather in 1954. Supplemental feeding has been necessary in these sections to maintain condition of ewes and promote the growth of lambs.

Fewer Dairy Cattle Shipped Into Northeastern States

Inshipments of dairy cattle into the 11 Northeastern State area totaled 74 thousand head in 1954, the second lowest in almost 2 decades of record. Although outshipments from these States of 46 thousand head were likewise small, the net shipment into the area of 28 thousand head was the smallest for any recent year except 1952. About half the cattle shipped into the area came from other States within the Northeast area, about one-third from Canada, and the remainder chiefly from the central and western Great Lakes States. As compared with 1940, Canada has become a much more important source of dairy cattle replacements for Northeastern herds, while inshipments from the Lake States have diminished greatly.

1954 Wool Production and Income

Wool production, shorn and pulled, in 1954 totaled 276 million pounds--1 percent above the 1953 production and the largest total wool production since 1948. Cash receipts to growers for shorn wool produced in 1954 were estimated at 125 million dollars, 1 percent below 1953 and about 7 percent below the 10-year average.

Mohair Production Up; Cash Receipts Down

The 1954 mohair clip of 13.7 million pounds was 9 percent larger than the 1953 clip but 18 percent smaller than the 1943-52 average. The 1954 average weight per fleece at 5.5 pounds was the highest of record, exceeding the previous record of 5.4 pounds in 1953. The number of goats clipped was up 8 percent from 1953. Because of lower prices, cash receipts from mohair produced in 1954 amounted to 9.9 million dollars, 11 percent less than in 1953.

Farm Employment Starts Up

Farm employment in late February was up 5 percent from a month earlier as spring field work was getting started in the South. Employment totaled 6.1 million persons compared with 6.4 million a year earlier. This year there were 280,000 fewer family workers and 59,000 fewer hired workers.

CURRENT ESTIMATES

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing, by States, January, 1955^{1 2}

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Maine.....	8,101	8,067	16,168
New Hampshire.....	4,193	808	5,001
Vermont.....	8,069	724	8,793
Massachusetts.....	9,695	3,841	13,536
Rhode Island.....	1,449	418	1,867
Connecticut.....	8,779	6,311	15,090
New York.....	42,739	15,187	57,926
New Jersey.....	16,370	4,129	20,499
Pennsylvania.....	43,747	15,454	59,201
North Atlantic.....	143,142	54,939	198,081
Ohio.....	50,835	40,887	91,722
Indiana.....	55,136	37,615	92,751
Illinois.....	90,713	88,617	179,330
Michigan.....	28,721	20,168	48,889
Wisconsin.....	66,555	11,223	77,778
East North Central.....	291,460	198,510	489,970
Minnesota.....	69,372	64,189	133,561
Iowa.....	151,352	83,038	234,390
Missouri.....	54,577	19,364	73,941
North Dakota.....	11,976	25,706	37,682
South Dakota.....	31,836	17,817	49,653
Nebraska.....	68,656	36,770	105,426
Kansas.....	45,775	45,087	90,862
West North Central.....	433,544	291,971	725,515
Delaware.....	5,105	1,048	6,153
Maryland.....	12,108	2,438	14,546
Virginia.....	16,769	13,375	30,144
West Virginia.....	5,444	2,598	8,042
North Carolina.....	16,090	11,466	27,556
South Carolina.....	6,277	6,837	13,114
Georgia.....	22,163	11,037	33,200
Florida.....	10,435	47,393	57,828
South Atlantic.....	94,391	96,192	190,583
Kentucky.....	17,210	84,404	101,614
Tennessee.....	14,215	32,435	46,650
Alabama.....	13,501	7,583	21,084
Mississippi.....	9,750	28,020	37,770
Arkansas.....	12,766	39,710	52,476
Louisiana.....	8,564	23,180	31,744
Oklahoma.....	20,824	13,333	34,157
Texas.....	57,159	88,769	145,928
South Central.....	153,989	317,434	471,423
Montana.....	10,972	24,719	35,691
Idaho.....	12,557	21,509	34,066
Wyoming.....	4,712	3,258	7,970
Colorado.....	23,408	11,675	35,083
New Mexico.....	4,825	10,604	15,429
Arizona.....	7,739	38,693	46,432
Utah.....	8,215	2,961	11,176
Nevada.....	2,961	685	3,646
Washington.....	14,318	38,314	52,632
Oregon.....	14,680	15,710	30,390
California.....	70,200	117,492	187,692
Western.....	174,587	285,620	460,207
United States.....	1,291,113	1,244,666	2,535,779

¹All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

²For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States ¹

Source	Jan. 1955	Feb. 1955 ²
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	2,536	1,900
Livestock and products.....	1,291	1,200
Meat animals.....	741	
Dairy products.....	311	
Poultry and eggs.....	219	
Other.....	20	
Crops.....	1,245	700
Food grains.....	134	
Feed crops.....	297	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	245	
Oil-bearing crops.....	134	
Tobacco.....	143	
Vegetables.....	116	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	74	
Other.....	102	
Government payments.....	35	
Total cash receipts.....	2,571	

¹For comparison for cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

²Preliminary.

³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1954 average.....	\$ 985	\$ 427	\$ 558	43%
1954--Jan.	1,006	452	554	45
Dec.	960	401	559	42
1955--Jan.	962	411	551	43

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

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